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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA

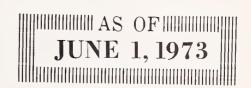
Prepared by

U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State, and private organizations listed on the inside back cover of this report.



TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly ar semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snaw courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a cantinuous record of snaw water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 970, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



ENT of

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA

and
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

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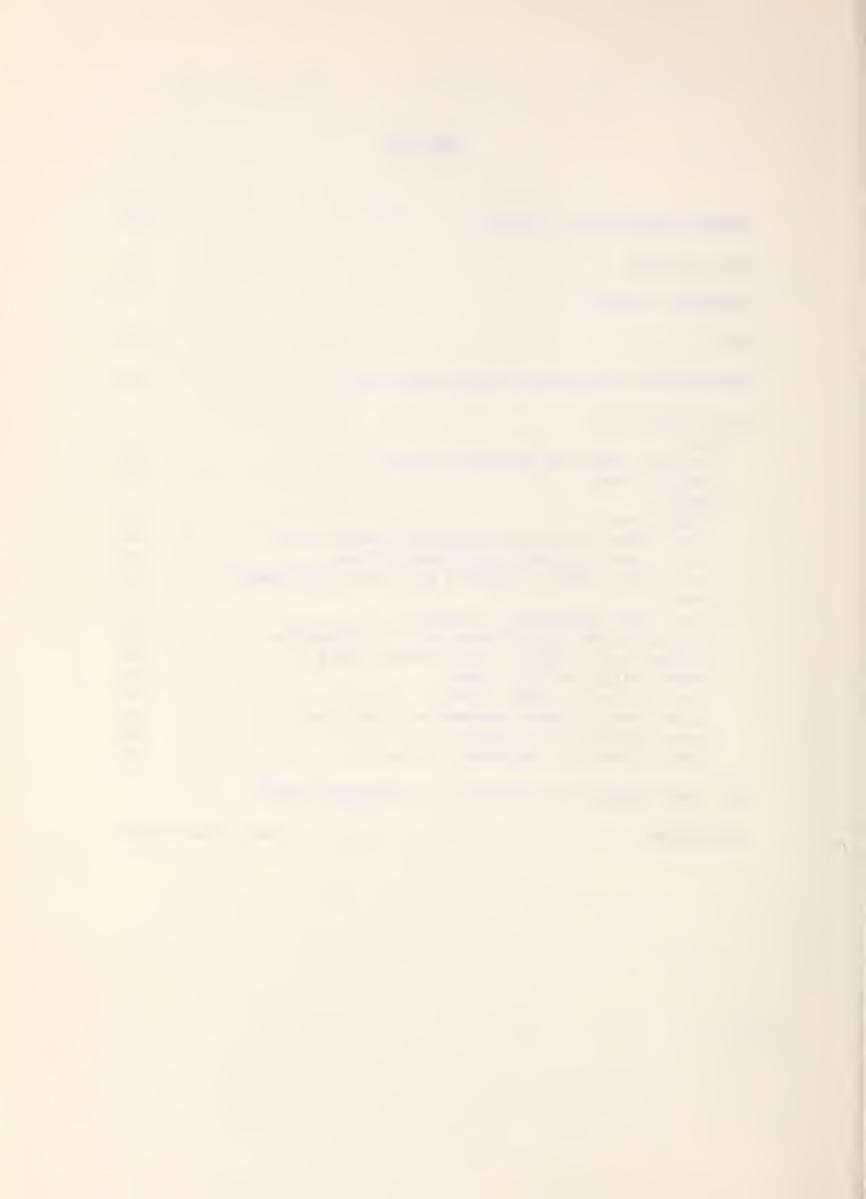
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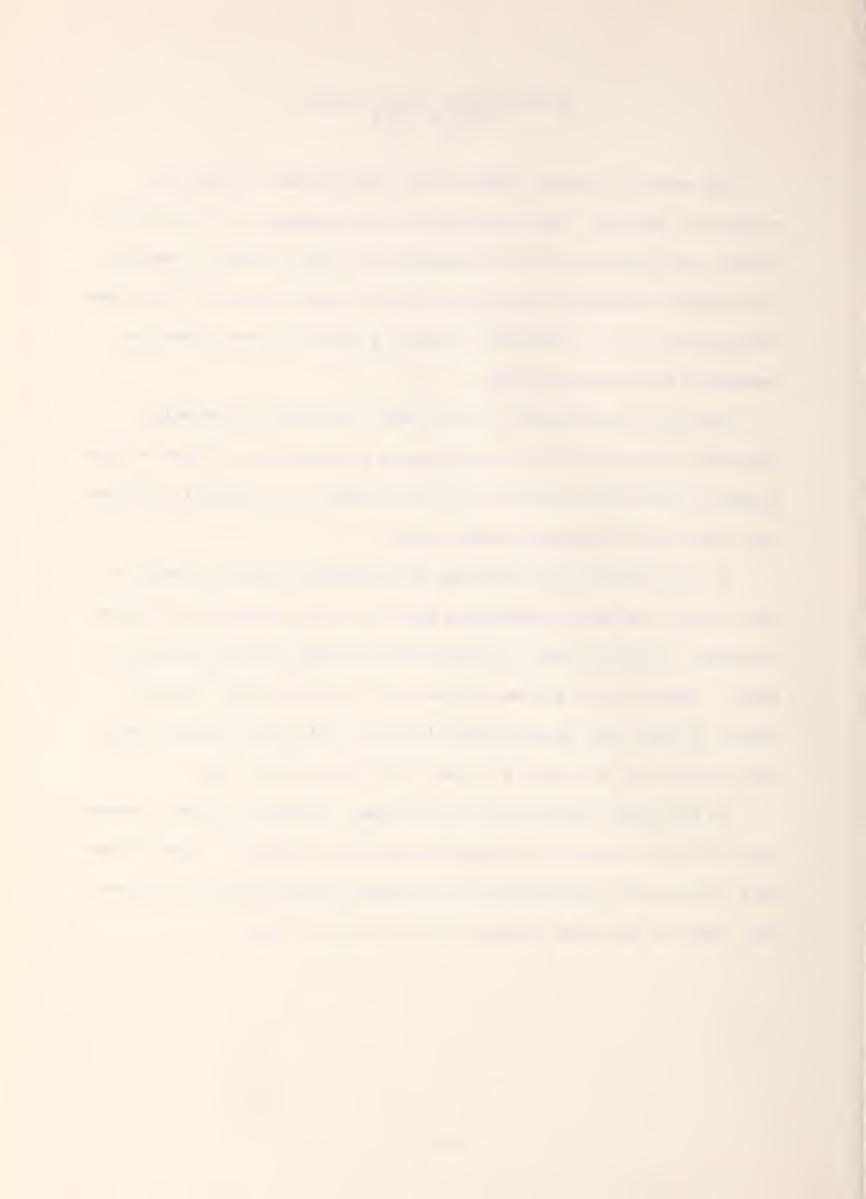
MONTANA WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK June 1, 1973

The mountain snowpack remains well below normal in nearly all portions of Montana. The exceptions are the headwaters of the Gallatin, Madison, and Yellowstone where snowpacks are about average. Mountain precipitation during May was below normal in many sections of the state. Spring runoff is well under way and some streams at lower elevation headwaters are receding rapidly.

West of the Continental Divide, water shortages are becoming noticeable because of below normal spring precipitation. Based on snow pillow records many streams west of the divide have reached their snowmelt peaks for this spring runoff season.

On the Missouri River drainage the snowpack is about average on the Gallatin and Madison drainages and well below average on all other drainages. This has been the prevailing situation since the first of March. Based on snow pillow records both the Madison and Jefferson should be near their snowmelt peak flows for this runoff season, while the Gallatin can be expected to peak the first part of June.

On the upper Yellowstone River drainage, snowpack is about average for this time of year with snowmelt progressing normally. Snow pillow data indicate the Yellowstone River drainage should be near its snowmelt peak for this year during the first week in June.



DRAINAGE BASIN and/or STATION		Profile	e (inches)	Date of	Soi	Moisture (Inc	ches)
Name	Elevation	Depth	Capacity	Survey	This Year	Last Year	Average +

	COLUMBIA	RIVER	BASIN				
Kootenai							
Baree Trail	3800	48	7.5			5.6	6.0
Murphy Lake R.S.	3000	48	22.6	6/01	19.6	20.1	20.8
Raven	3050	48	23.0			13.8	17.9
Flathead							
Desert Mountain	5600	54	8.4	•	8.7		
Marias Pass	5250	54	6.5	5/26	6.4	8.4	6.1
Clark Fork							
Black Pine	7100	48	10.0		9.0	8.6	8.6
Lubrecht Forest	4100	48	26,8	•	21.0		-
Seeley Lake R.S.	4030	48	11.9	6/01	8.6	11.4	11.0
Skalkaho Summit	7260	48	10.8	6/01	10.0	10.1	10.0
Bitterroot							
Gibbons Pass	7100	48	7.1	•	7.0	7.2	7.1
Lolo Pass	5250	48	10.6	5/31	9.9	9.8	9.9
	MISSOURI	RIVER	BASIN				
Beaverhead							
Lakeview	6700	48	15.3	6/01	15.8	15.3	14.9
Madison							
West Yellowstone	6700	48	6.5			2.8	3.1
Gallatin							
Bridger Bowl	7250	48	17.0	5/29	15.6	15.9	16.4
College Site No. 2	4856	54	17.7				13.7
Lick Creek	6860	48	18.8	5/30	18.1	17.9	18.2
Twenty-One Mile	7150	48	10.0	-,		9.9	9.9
Missouri Main Stem							
Kings Hill	7420	48	11.8	5/29	9.8	11.1	10.9
Stemple Pass	6350	48	5.9	5/31	4.6	5.2	5.2
				,			
Milk Reguer Creek	2050	10	00.0	F /00	15.0	7 1 1	
Beaver Creek Rocky Boy	3950 4700	48	20.9	- •	15.8	14.4	49
ROCKY DOY	4700	36	10.1	5/29	10.0	9.6	=
Yellowstone							
Battle Ridge	6020	48	17.6	5/29	13.3	13.3	15.5
Northeast Entrance	7350	48	9.4	5/30	9.0	8.8	9.2



RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet) END OF MONTH

				Usable Storage	
Basin or Stream	RESERVOIR	Usable Capacity	This Year	Last Year	Average
COSTROLL DEVEN DAG	T 3.7				
COLUMBIA RIVER BAS	IN				
Kootenai	Koocanusa	4,965.0	1,576.0	950.2	•
Flathead	Hungry Horse	3,428.0	2.593.0	1,955.0	2,632.0
	Flathead Lake	1,791.0	1,353.0	1,454.0	1.494.0
	Camas (4)	45.2	29.5	45.1	38.8
	Mission Valley (8)	100.3	27.1	55.8	
Clark Fork	Georgetown Lake	31.0	24.0	25.3	24.2
	Nevada Creek	12.6		12.6	11.8
	Noxon Rapids	334.6	299.6	311.8	220.7
Bitterroot	Como	34.9		31.7	28.1
Dictorio	Painted Rocks	31.7	14.6	28.1	32.6
MISSOURI RIVER BAS	IN				
Beaverhead	Clark Canyon	328.9	161.2	147.0	127.7
	Lima	84.0	79.1	63.9	50.9
Ruby	Ruby	38.8	Cita	37.9	37.3
Madison	Hebgen Lake	377.5	321.9	258.4	278.4
	Ennis Lake	41.0	35.7	36.7	35.7
Gallatin	Middle Creek	8.0	7.4	7.8	6.7
Missouri	Canyon Ferry	2,043.0	1,754.0	1,531.0	
	Hauser & Helena	61.9	61.9	62.5	57.3
	Lake Helena	10.4	10.5	10.7	8.9
	Holter Lake	81.9	80.0	78.8	74.8
	Smith River	10.7	5.7	11.1	10.4
	Bair	7.0	4.5		
	Martinsdale	23.1	14.2		
	Deadman's Basin				
	Fort Peck Lake				
Sun	Gibson	105.0			
	Willow Creek	32.3			
	Pishkun	32.0			
Marias	Lower Two Medicine		12.5		
	Four Horns		13.7		
	Swift	30.0		28.0	
	Lake Frances	112.0			
	Tiber	1,347.0			
Milk	Fresno	127.2	59.6		
	Nelson	66.8	40.3		
	Lake Sherburne	66.1			
Yellowstone	Mystic Lake	20.8		3.5	
	Tongue River	68.0		20	35.5
	Cooney	27.5	19.4	20.2	
Big Horn	Big Horn	1,356.0			



NOW			THIS YEAR		PAST R	ECORD
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Water Cont	ent (inches)
` NAME	Elevation	of Survey	(Inches)	(Inches)	Last Year	Average
CLARK FORK RIVER						
Black Pine	7100	6/01	0	0.0	7.8	4.1
Hoodoo Basin	6000	5/29	33	15.8	63.4	32.9
Hoodoo Basin Pillow	6000	6/01	SP	5.5	61.1	29.4
Hoodoo Creek	5900	5/29	32	15.0	61.4	32.0
Lookout	5250	5/30	0	0.0	25.3	13.9
Skalkaho Summit	7260	6/01	1	0.7	34.0	16.8
Stuart Mountain	7400	5/30	14	6.5	30.6	18.0
TV Mountain	6800	5/30	2	0.7	19.0	3
BITTERROOT RIVER						
Gibbons Pass	7100	5/31	0	0.0	19.4	7.6
Lost Horse	5940	5/30	14	6.9	46.0	18.5
Saddle Mountain	7940	5/31	21	9.4	32.2	18.0
Saddle Mountain Pillow	7940	5/31	SP	8.5	36.5	æ
Twin Lakes	6510	5/30	25	12.0	60.8	32.2

6400 5/30

SP 9.2 57.9

Twin Lakes Pillow

SP - Snow pillow observation - water content only.



	MISSOURI	RIVER BASIN				
JEFFERSON RIVER						
Rocker Peak Rocker Peak Pillow	8000 8000	·	10 SP	3.4 8.7	13.4 17.7	6 00
MADISON RIVER						
Black Bear Black Bear Pillow Madison Plateau Madison Plateau Pillow West Yellowstone Pillow Whiskey Creek Whiskey Creek Pillow	7950 7950 7750 7750 6700 6800 6800	5/31 5/31 5/31 5/31	48 SP 14 SP SP 0 SP	25.7 21.8 5.8 4.1 0.0 0.0		0.0
GALLATIN RIVER						
Arch Falls Bridger Bowl Bridger Bowl Pillow Devils Slide Hood Meadow Lick Creek Lick Creek Pillow Maynard Creek Maynard Creek Pillow Shower Falls Shower Falls Pillow	7350 7250 7250 8100 6600 6860 6210 6210 8100	5/29	28 42 SP 52 0 SP 3 SP 56 SP	11.0 18.6 16.0 20.7 0.0 0.0 0.9 2.2 23.7 23.1	3.4 22.4 15.9 20.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 22.7 19.0	23.0 2.4 0.0 0.0 5.6 4.8
MISSOURI RIVER (Main Stem	<u>)</u>					
Deadman Creek Deadman Creek Pillow Kings Hill JUDITH RIVER	6450 6450 7500	· .	0 SP 14	0.0 0.0 4.8	0.0 0.0 13.9	0.0 0.0 10.3
Spur Park Spur Park Pillow	8100 8100	5/29 5/29	15 SP	5.8 7.0	25.1 25.6	19.5 18.5
UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER						
Cooke Station Fisher Creek Fisher Creek Pillow Northeast Entrance Northeast Entrance Pillow White Mill	8150 9100 9100 7400 7350 8700	5/30 5/30 5/30 5/30 5/30 5/30	19 68 SP 0 SP 46	7.3 29.6 26.5 0.0 0.0 19.2	15.5 47.6 43.4 0.0 0.0 34.4	10.9 33.5 30.6 0.4 0.0 22.7



SNOW			THIS YEAR		PAST R	ECORD
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Water Conte	nt (inches)
NAME	Elevation	of Survey	(Inches)	(Inches)	Last Year	Average

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTS 1973

JANUARY 1						
Banfield Mountain	5600	1/10	3 8	10.2	_	esp
Bristow Creek	3900	1/10	16	4.3		-
Cedar Grove	4100	1/11	9	2.5	CSP	
Davis Creek	5400	1/09	42	12.8	•	_
Garver Creek	4250	1/09	20	5.9	-	-
Hawkins Lake	6450	1/09	52	16.2	-	#
Hebgen Dam	6550	1/03	25	4.1	6.6	4.5
Lake Creek	6100	1/11	19	3.0	-	cap .
Lost Soul	4800	1/10	30	7.6	-	-
Northeast Entrance	7400	12/31	18	2.7	5.4	3.5
North Fork Elk Creek	6250	1/02	23	4.8	10.1	=
Poorman Creek	5100	1/11	43	13.6	-	-
Rocky Boy	4700	12/27	2	0.3	0.7	-
Tepee Creek	8000	1/11	29	6.4	600	-
White Mill	8700	1/02	45	12.2	17.0	eo
FEBRUARY 1						
Carrot Basin	9000	1/31	72	22.9	33.1	~
Frohner Meadows	6480	2/02	18	3.6	age	a 0
Picket Pin Lower	6200	2/03	8	1.8	-	60
Picket Pin Middle	7250	2/03	23	6.1	•	-
Picket Pin Upper	8100	2/03	40	11.1	•	-
West Rosebud	7500	1/30	27	6.4	12.6	en en
MARCH 1						
Carter Creek	7400	3/01	20	4.0	6.1	3.8
MAY 15						
Hell Roaring Divide	5770	5/21	23	10.7	43.4	27.5



SNOW				THIS YEAR		PAST R	ECORD
DRAINA	GE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Water Conte	ent (inches)
NA	ME	Elevation	of Survey	(Inches)	(Inches)	Last Year	Average

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED 1973 DATA

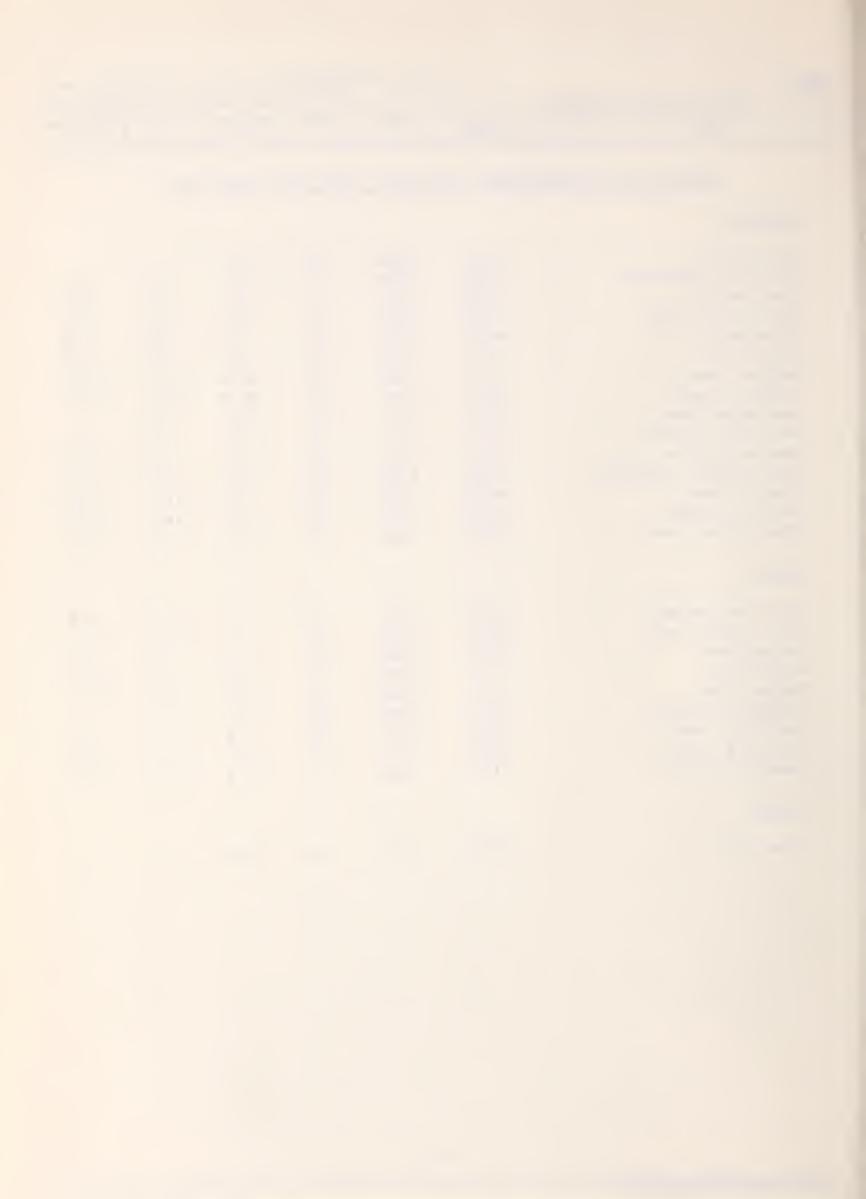
JANUARY 1						
Black Bear Chessman Reservoir Lakeview Canyon Storm Lake Ten Mile Lower Ten Mile Middle Whiskey Creek	7950 6200 6930 7780 6600 6800	12/29 12/29 12/29 1/02 12/27 12/27 12/29	55 4 18 37 11 20 32	14.6 0.8 2.7 5.1 2.4 3.6 7.1	3.4 10.3 5.7 4.8 7.4	1.4 4.6 5.5 2.8 4.3
FEBRUARY 1						
Chessman Reservoir Marias Pass Picnic Grounds Southern Cross Ten Mile Lower Ten Mile Middle Ten Mile Upper Twenty=One Mile West Yellowstone	6200 5250 6500 6500 6600 6800 8000 7150 6700	1/30 1/26 1/31 1/31 1/29 1/29 1/29 1/30 1/30	8 26 11 12 18 27 28 39 31	1.7 6.0 1.6 2.2 3.6 5.1 5.6 9.6 6.8	6.6 19.8 6.0 7.8 8.6 12.1 14.1 16.0 12.2	2.6 12.1 3.1 4.4 4.6 6.9 8.8 11.9 7.4
MARCH 1						
Camp Senia Copper Mountain Elk Horn Springs Goat Mountain Hebgen Dam Holbrook Hudson Bay Divide Independence Middle Mill Creek Mineral Creek Monument Peak Picket Pin Middle Picnic Grounds Rock Creek Timberline Creek	7890 7700 7800 7000 6550 4530 5800 7850 4000 8800 7250 6500 5600 8850	2/26 3/01 3/03 2/27 2/28 2/27 3/02 3/02 3/01 3/02 3/05 2/28 3/01 2/26	16 29 22 22 31 13 34 36 36 35 47 21 12 24 36	5.1 7.2 4.4 5.2 8.2 3.8 10.2 10.6 9.4 11.7 15.2 6.6 2.1 6.4 9.2	12.1 12.9 12.6 17.7 27.8 19.2 17.4 22.3 25.7 19.4 6.4 7.8 18.0	4.8 8.4 10.2 10.0 9.9 16.3 14.1 19.1 20.0
West Yellowstone Wrong Ridge	6700 6800	2/27 3/01	32 33	8.0 9.5	14.7 29.0	9.8 19.4

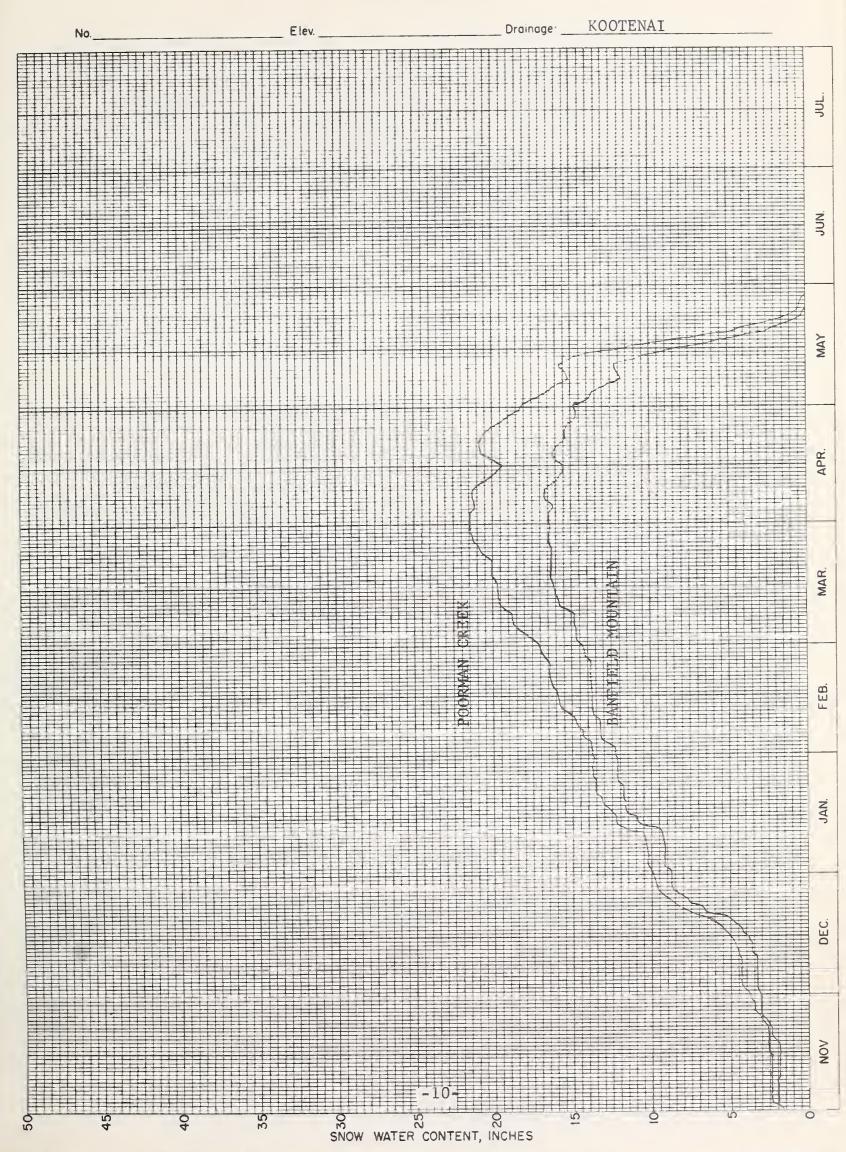


SNOW			THIS YEAR		PAST R	ECORD
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date	Snow Depth	Water Content	Water Conte	nt (inches)
` NAME	Elevation	of Survey	(Inches)	(Inches)	Last Year	Average

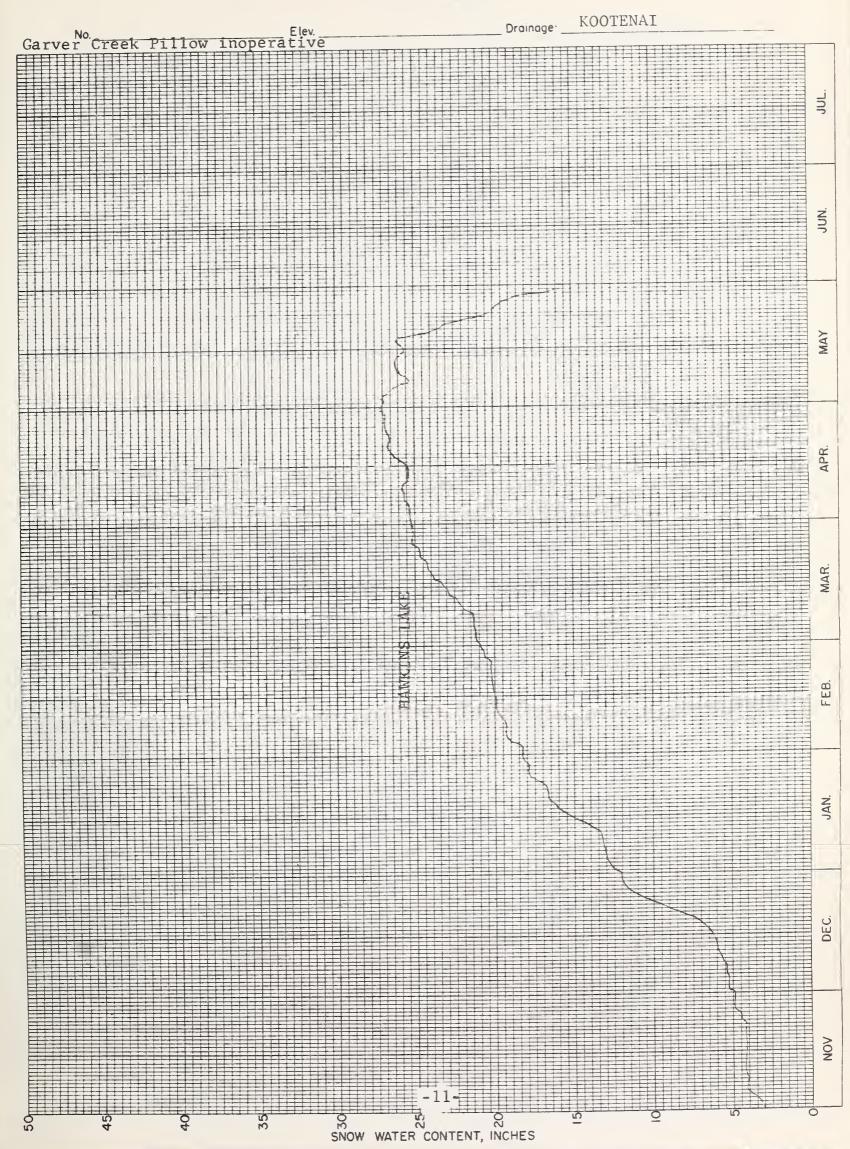
CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED 1973 DATA (Continued)

APRIL 1						
Bots Sots	8000	4/02	56	11.2	-	-
Chessman Reservoir	6200	4/03	19	4.3	3.8	4.2
Camp Senia	7890	4/02	47	9.7	9.2	6.4
Elk Horn Springs	7800	3/30	28	5.9	14.9	9.8
Intergaard	6450	3/31	29	7.2	13.5	8.5
Kings Hill	7500	3/30	36	8.5	21.0	13.2
Marias Pass	5250	3/27	42	10.9	29.4	18.8
Mineral Creek	4000	4/01	35	11.9	26.6	21.4
Nez Perce Creek	6500	3/30	22	5.6	7.9	
North Fork Jocko	6330	3/29	83	32.3	65.5	47.2
Southern Cross	6500	3/31	20	5.6	8.5	7.4
Spotted Bear Mountain	7000	4/03	30	10.8	21.0	15.1
Stemple Pass	6600	4/03	29	6.8	16.4	10.8
Ten Mile Middle	6800	4/02	42	9.7	16.6	10.8
Timberline Creek	8850	4/02	73	15.3	23.8	15.5
MAY 1						
Elk Horn Springs	7800	5/02	21	6.3	15.1	9.2
Heart Lake Trail	4800	5/01	5	1.6	38.7	17.2
Hebgen Dam	6550	5/01	18	6.2	6.8	5.8
Kings Hill	7500	4/30	45	12.8	23.2	14.7
Marias Pass	5250	4/26	24	7.2	31.4	18.7
Picket Pin Upper	8100	5/02	93	25.9	30.2	-
Ten Mile Lower	6600	5/01	23	7.4	6.7	5.3
Ten Mile Middle	6800	5/01	37	11.4	17.3	11.6
Twenty-One Mile	7150	5/01	36	10.6	23.4	16.0
<u>MÁY 15</u>						
Bots Sots	8000	5/16	41	15.0	400	

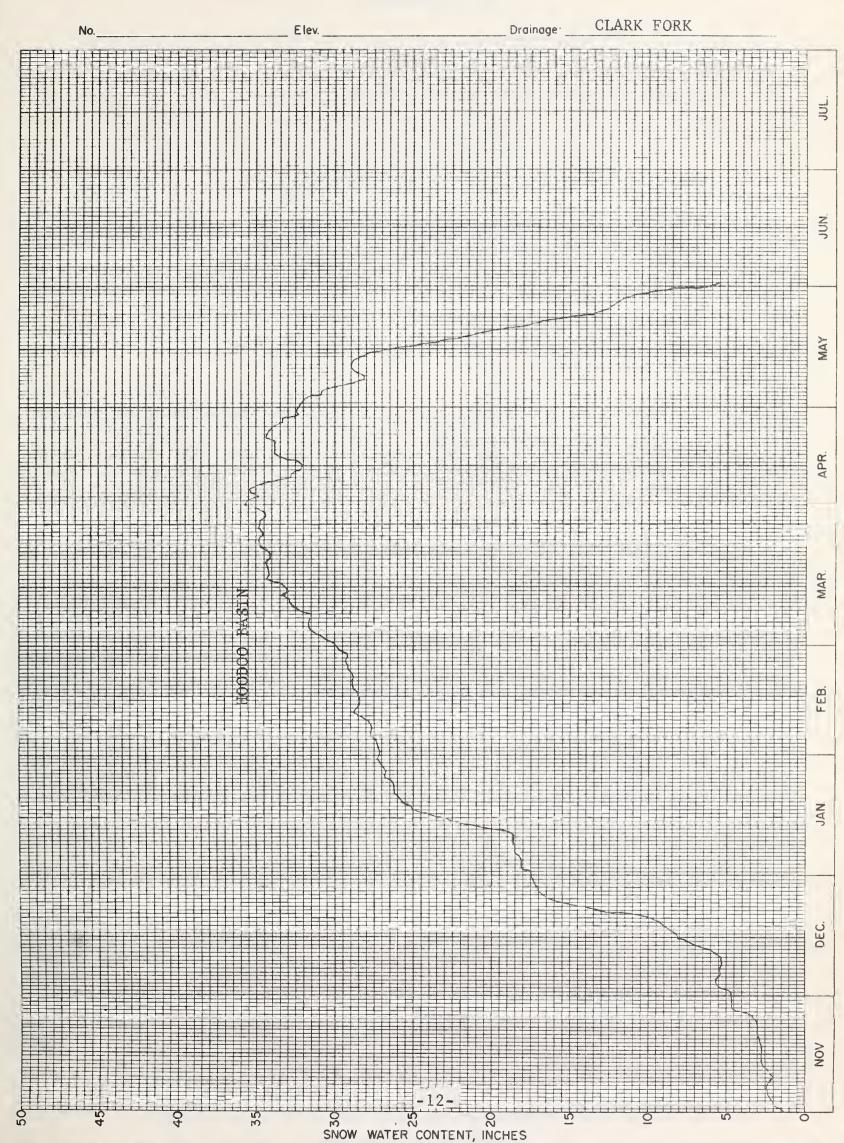




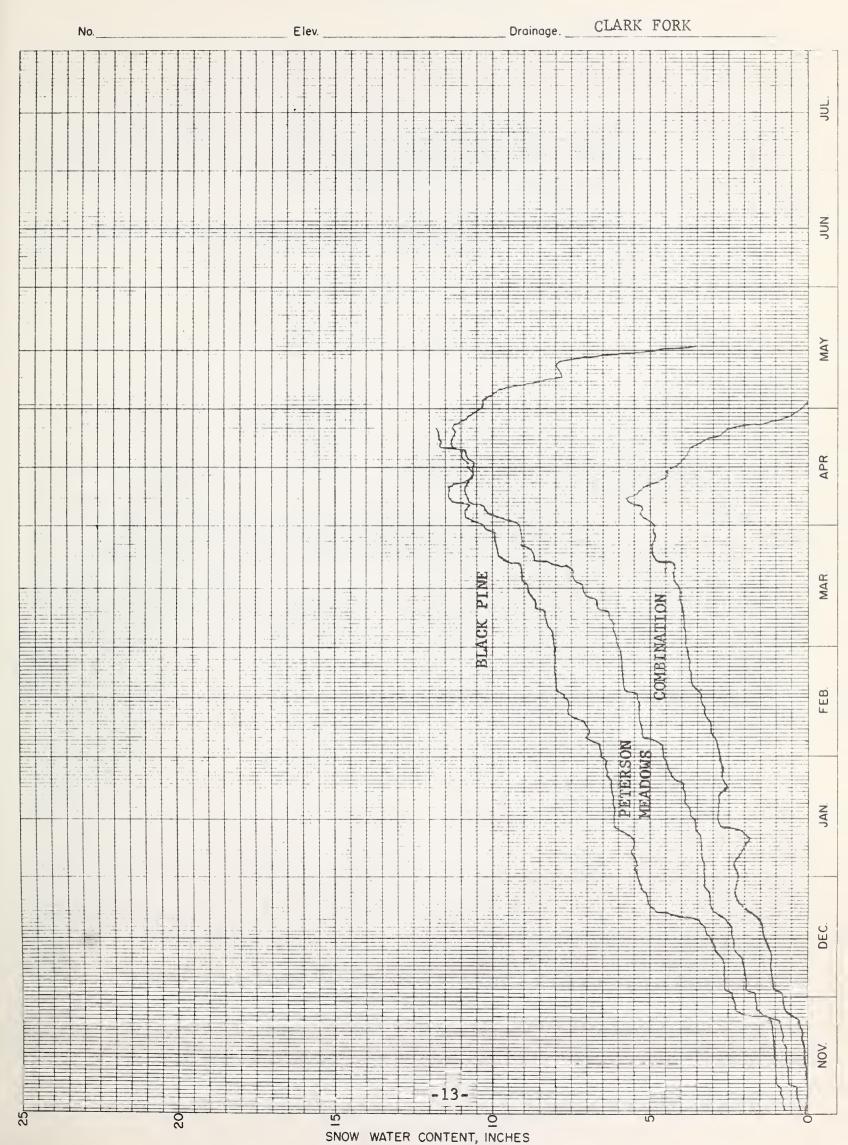




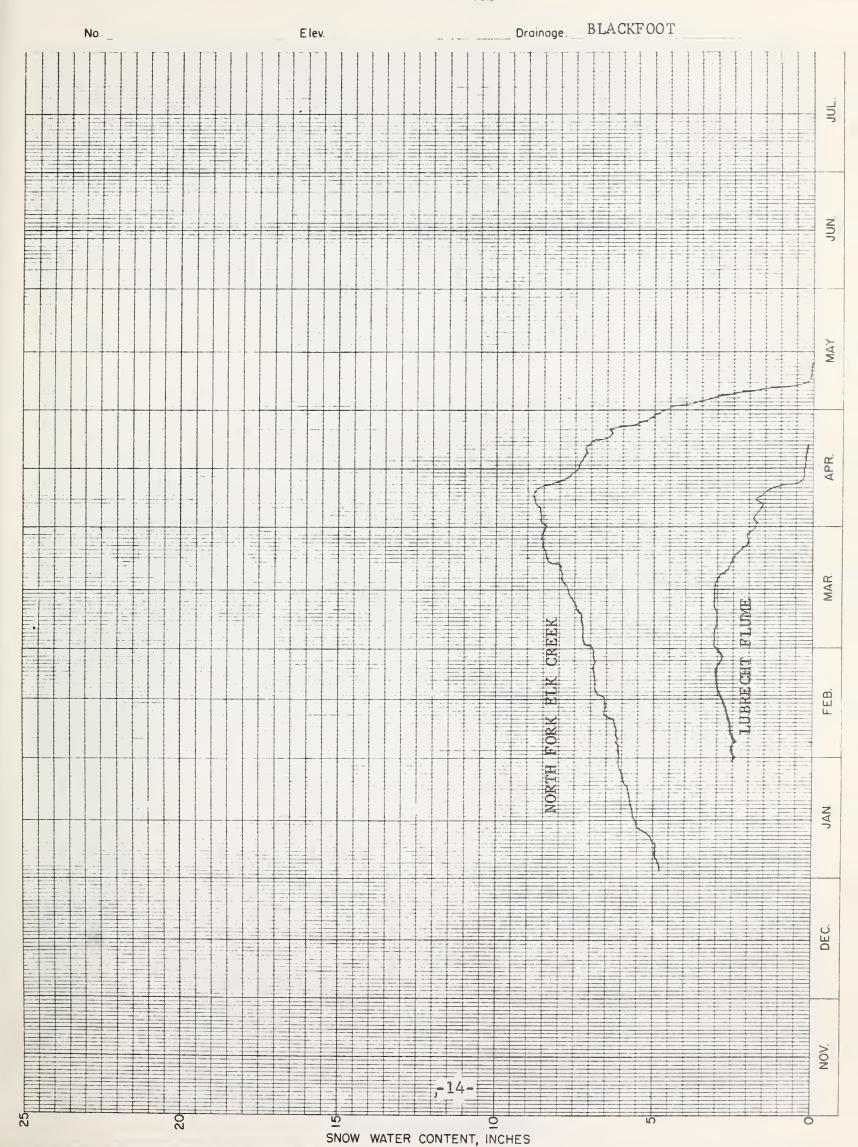




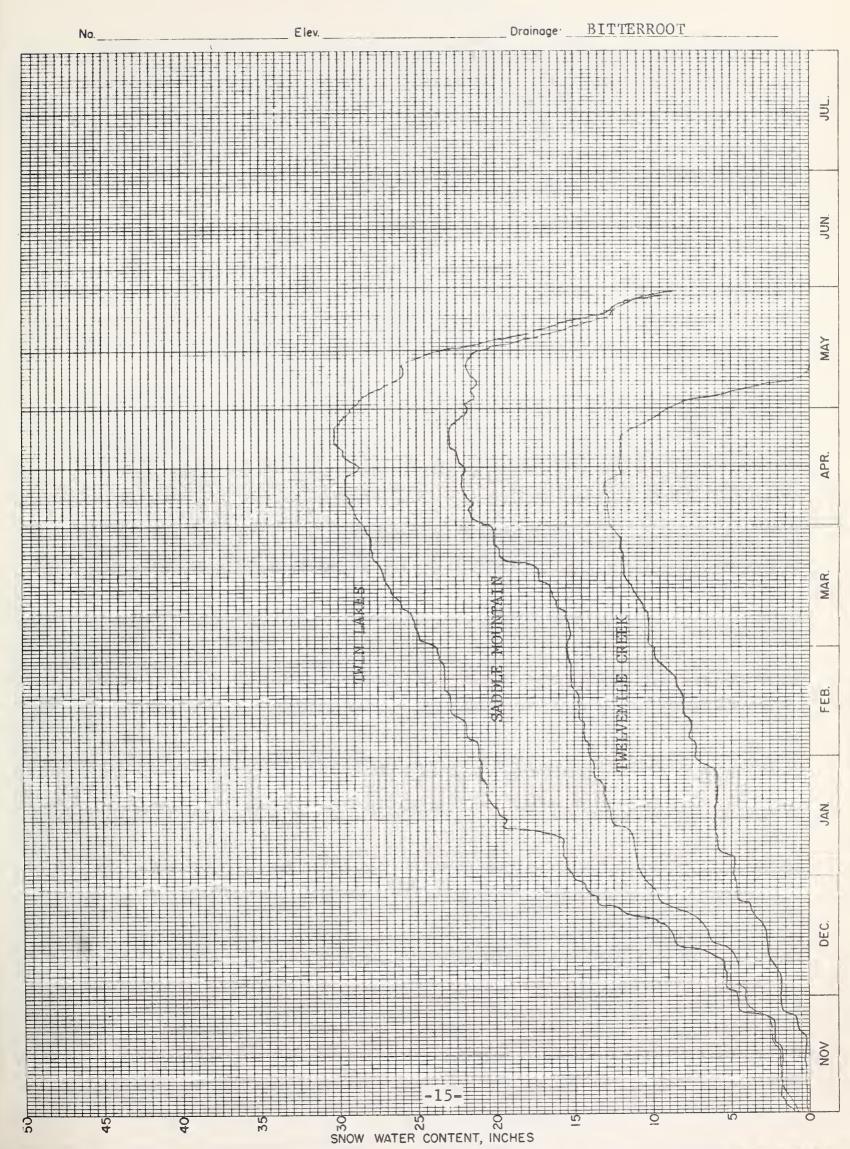




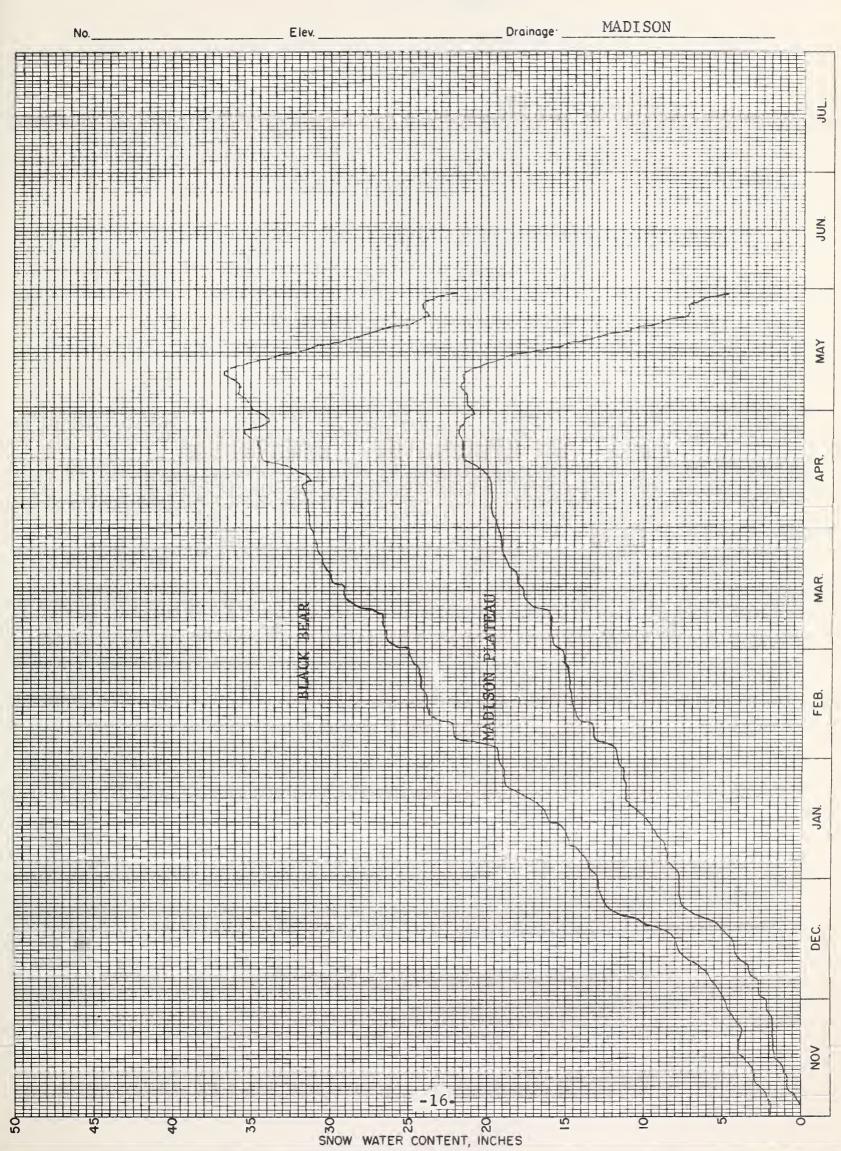




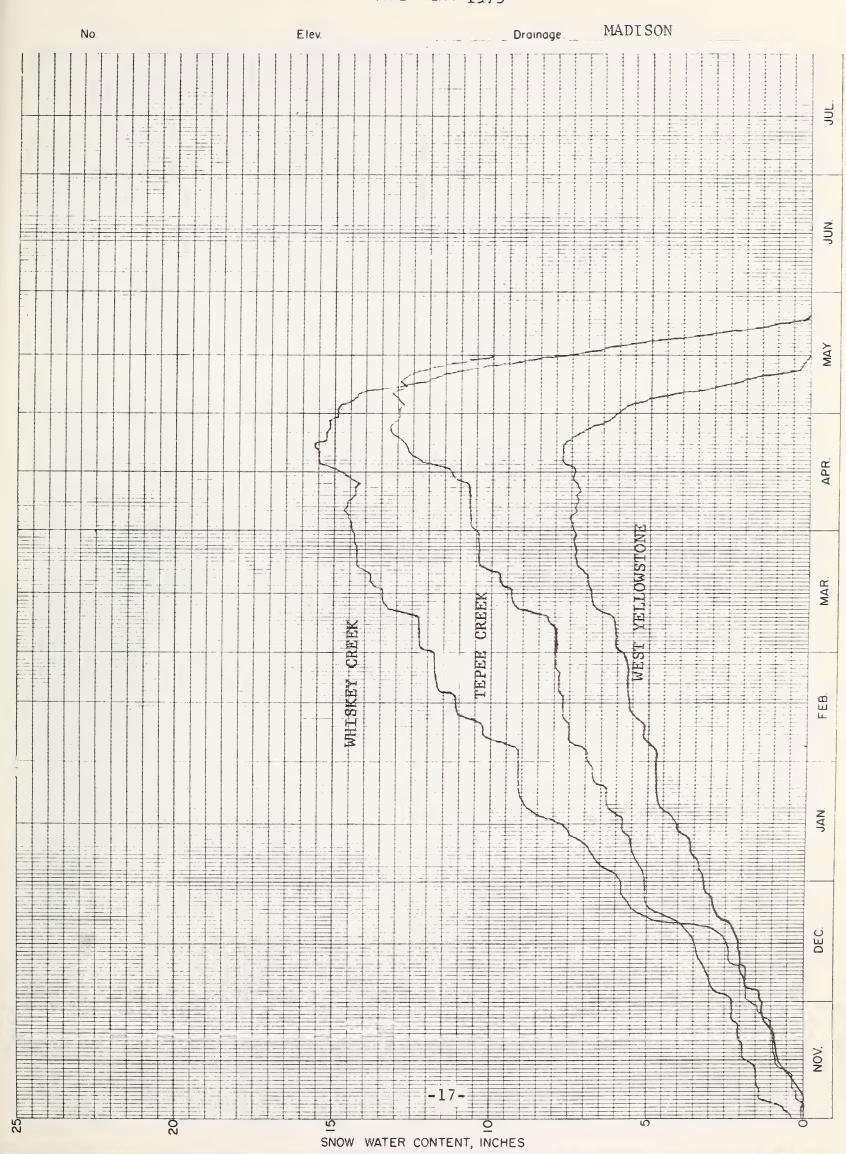








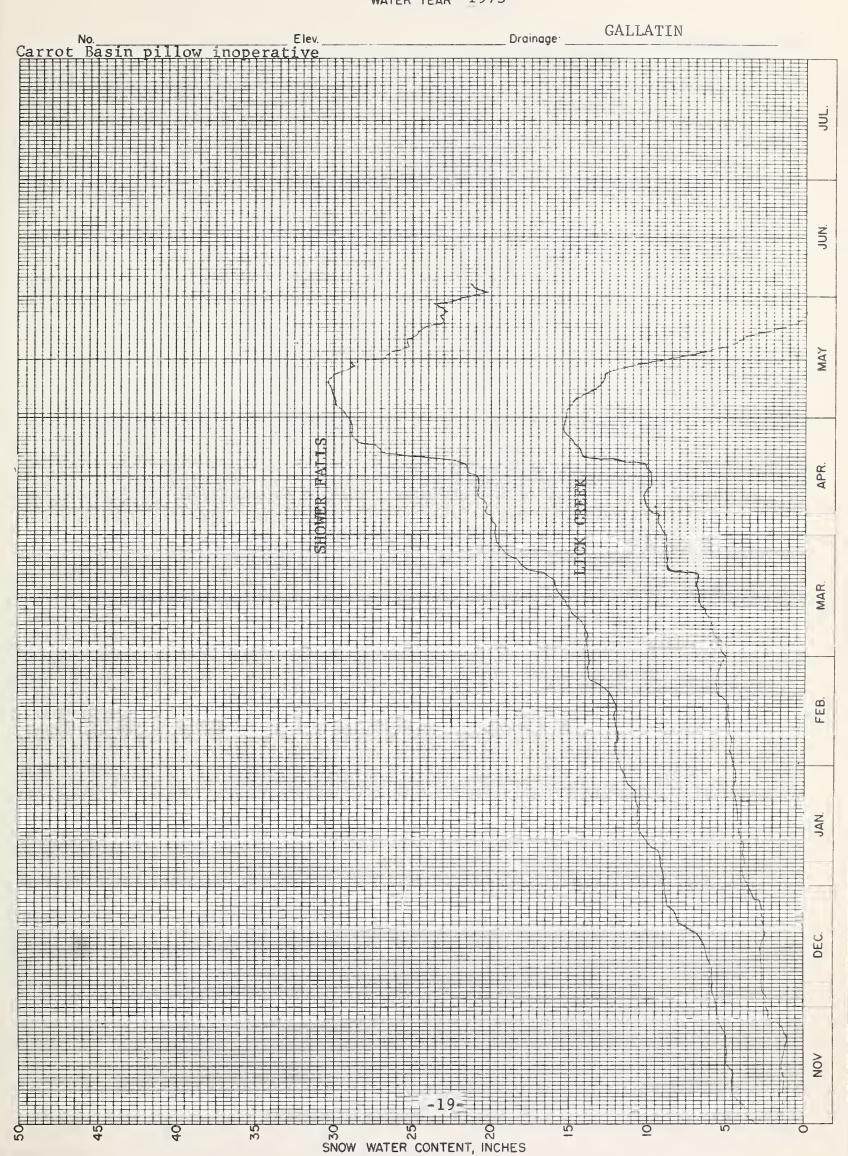




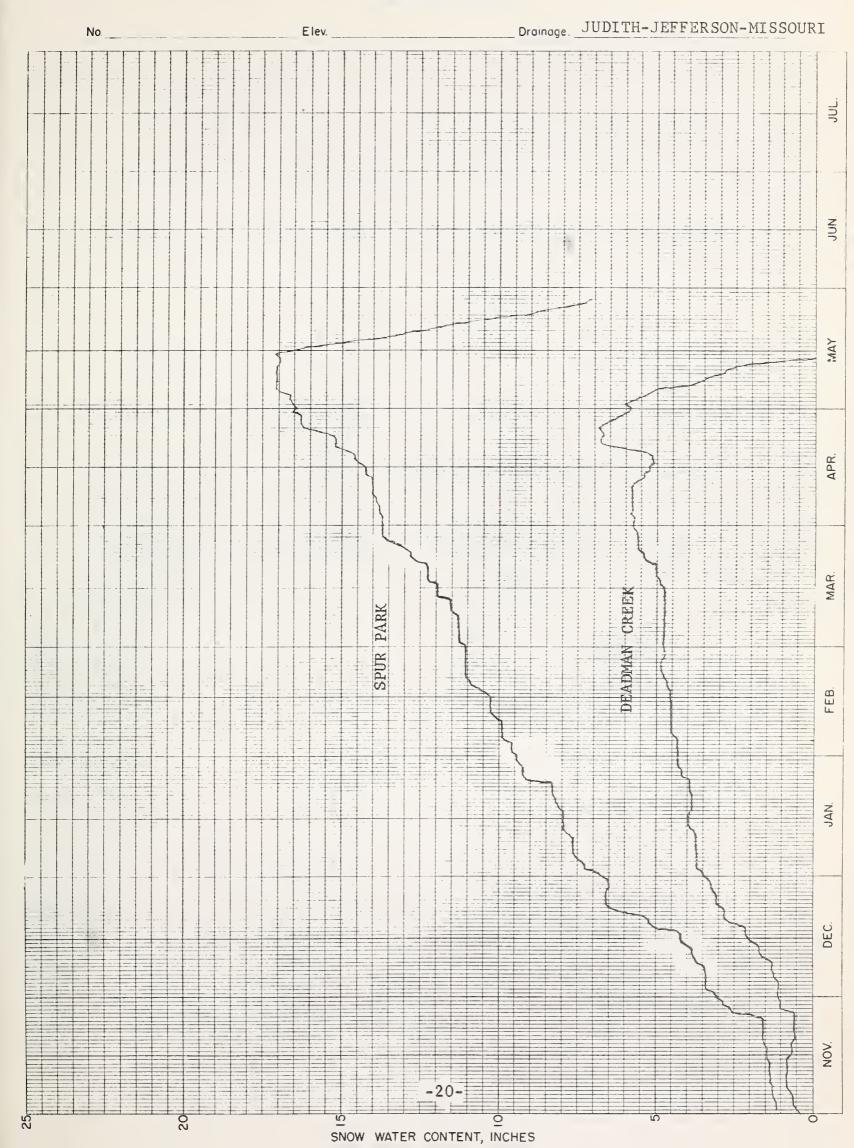


GALLATIN No. Elev. Drainage: NOV SNOW WATER CONTENT, INCHES

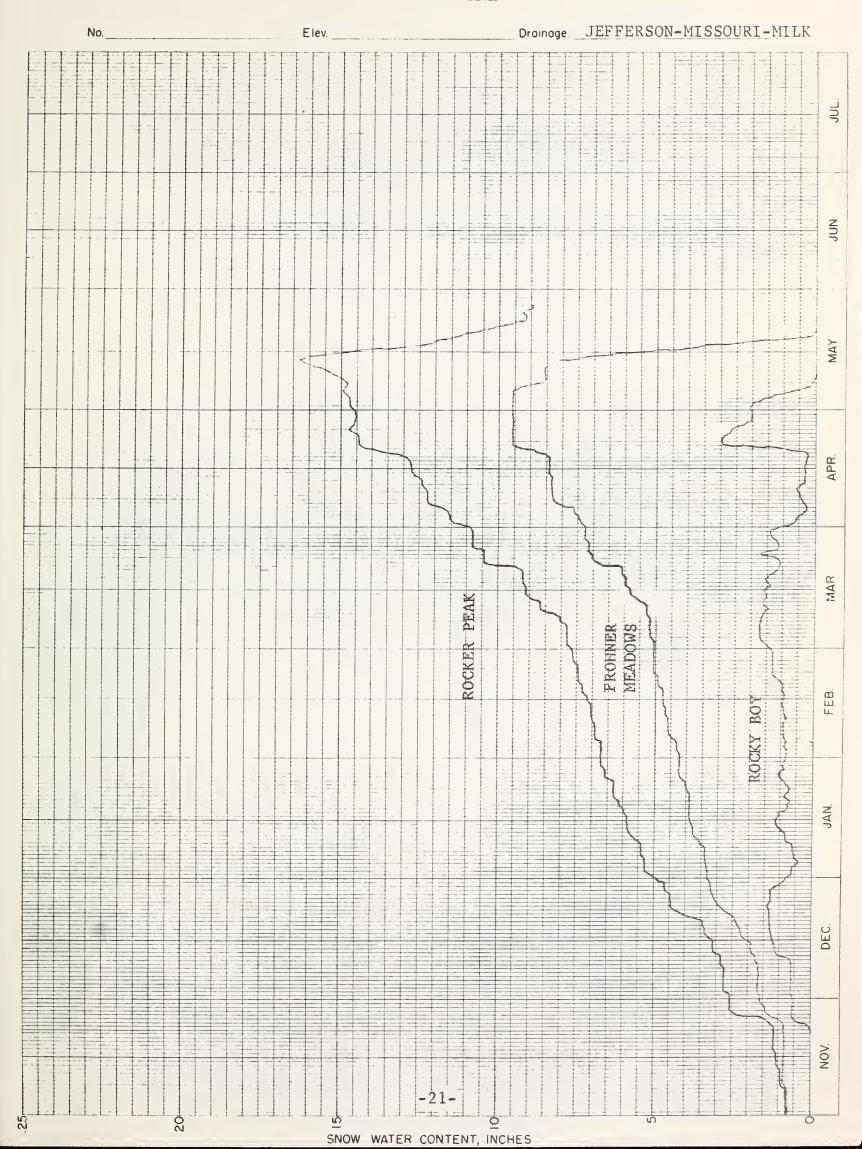




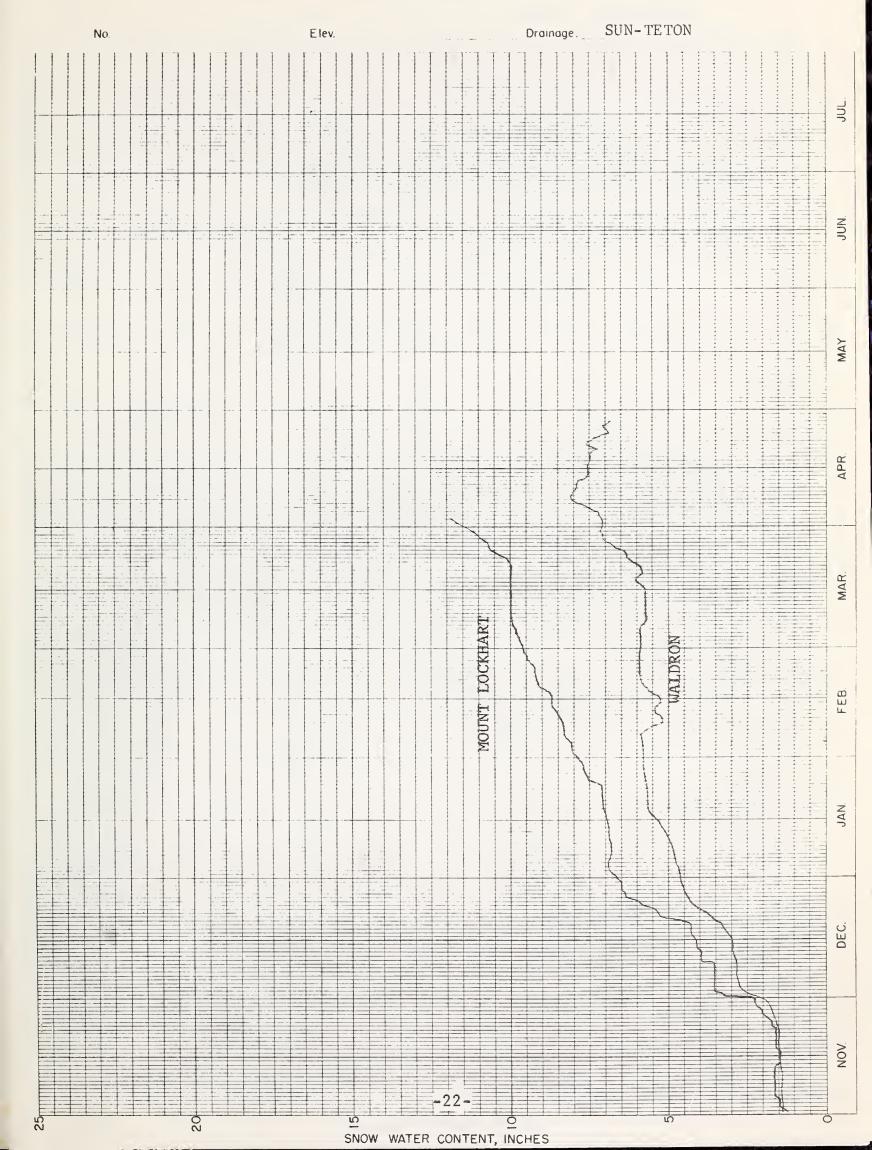




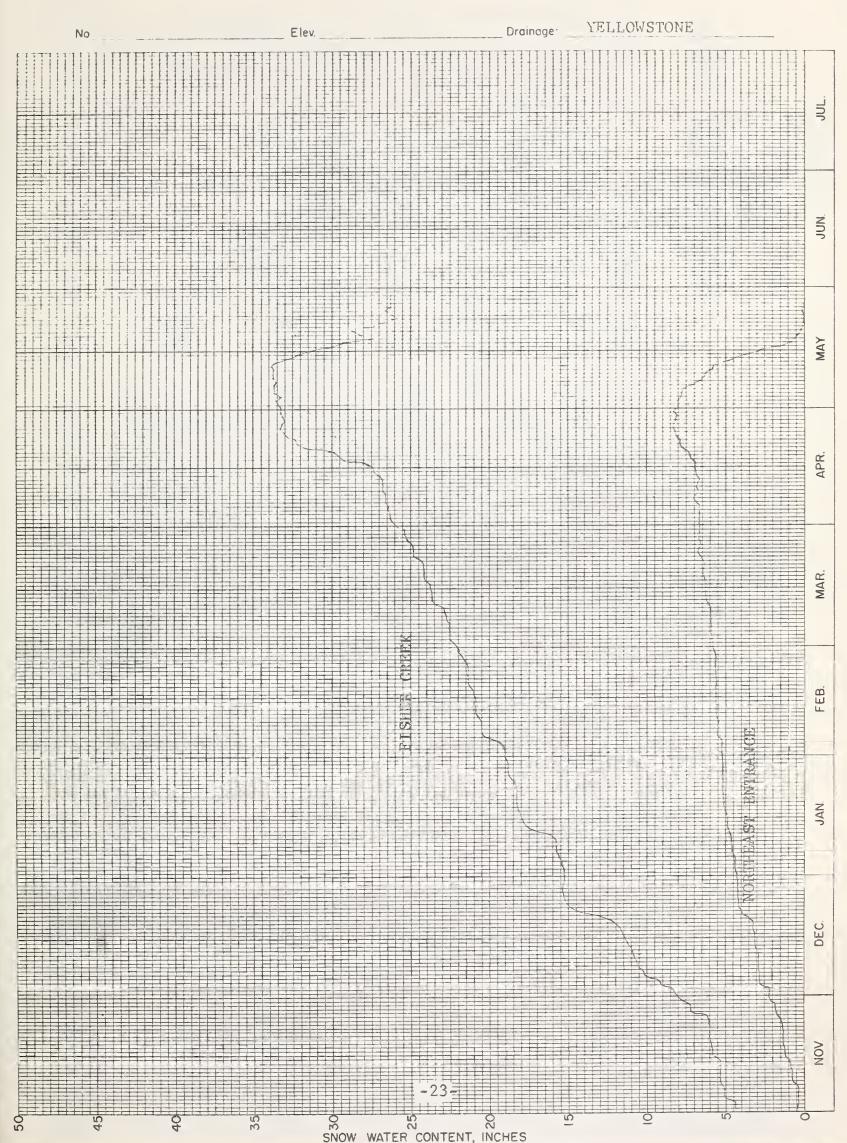




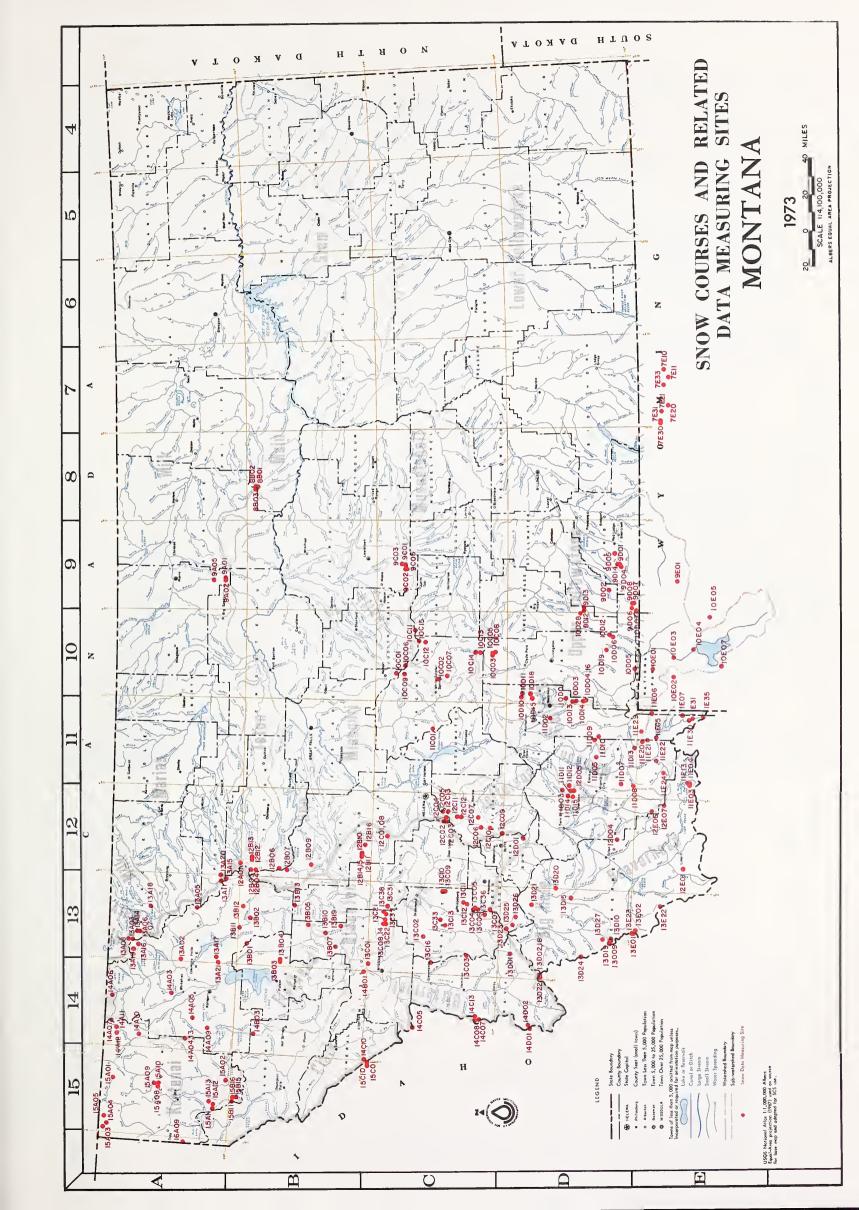












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Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Montana Snow Surveys

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Canada:

Water Survey of Canada, Calgary, Department of the Environment

Water Resources Service, Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, British Columbia

Federal:

Department of the Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Soil Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA, National Weather Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Reclamation
Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife
Geological Survey
National Park Service

STATE

Montana Conservation Districts
Montana Department of Fish and Game
Montana Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation
Montana Water Resources Board
Montana State University - Agricultural Experiment
Station
North Montana Branch Station - Agricultural
Experiment Station
University of Montana - School of Forestry

PRIVATE

Montana Power Company

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

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domestic and municipal water water supply for irrigation, supply, hydro-electric power necessary for forecasting generation, navigation, Furnishes the basic data mining and industry "The Conservation of Water begins with the Snow Survey"